International/OECD Nanotechnology Activities

EPA/DoD Meeting on Nanotechnology

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Background (1)

- The Chemicals Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) held a Special Session on Nanotechnology in June, 2005
- Purpose: to inform delegations on nanotechnology and consider possible issues where the OECD may be usefully engaged
- The Chemicals Committee subsequently agreed to hold a workshop in Washington DC in December, 2005
- A “steering committee” was established to prepare for this meeting

Background (2)

- OECD Workshop on the Safety of Manufactured Nanomaterials explored the following areas:
  - **Definitions, nomenclature and characterization** (properties, uses, fate)
  - **Environmental effects** (hazard identification; hazard and exposure assessment methods)
  - **Human health effects** (hazard identification; hazard and exposure assessment methods)
  - **Regulatory frameworks** (in the industrial chemicals sector)
  - **Coordination** with other organizations, e.g. ISO
- Recommended the establishment of a subsidiary body to further develop cooperation and collaboration among members.
- The Chemicals Committee, in February 2006, decided to establish a Working Party on the Health and Environmental Safety Implications of Manufactured Nanomaterials; agreed to Terms of Reference
- Working Party approved by OECD Council in September, 2006

OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (1)

- Met in London, October 26-27, 2006.
- Main task – develop a programme of work to be forwarded to the Chemicals Committee for approval
- Other tasks –
  - Take steps to get the Working Party off to a fast start
  - Agree on bureau and organization of work
  - Work out modalities of cooperation with ISO in the form of an intersecretariat paper
- Also, countries and observers reported on their related activities in a tour de table – report has been declassified
- Preparatory work and documentation was provided by the secretariat and steering committee (now disbanded)

OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (2)

- Working Party agreed to Programme of Work
  - **Objective**: *promote international cooperation in human health and environmental safety related aspects of manufactured nanomaterials*
  - **Three work areas**:
    - Identification, characterization, definitions, terminology and standards
    - Testing methods and risk assessment
    - Information sharing, co-operation and dissemination
- Programme of Work was approved by the Chemicals Committee on 15-17 November 2006
- Next Working Party meeting, April 2007 in Berlin

OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (4)

- The Working Party also agreed to advance its work over the near term by establishing small groups to advance certain specific projects:

1. Development of an OECD Research Technologies Database
2. Environmental Health and Safety Research Strategies on Manufactured Nanomaterials
3. Safety Testing of a Representative Set of Manufactured Nanomaterials
4. Manufactured Nanomaterials and Test Guidelines
5. Co-operation on Voluntary Schemes and Regulatory Programmes
6. Co-operation on Risk Assessments and Exposure Measurements

Summary of Projects

- Many projects are interrelated; it is necessary to sort out timing and resources among projects at an early stage
- Projects 2, 3 and 4 will have an early “joint meeting” to sort out work (Dortmund, March 2007)
- Development of a working definition of “manufactured nanomaterial” will be a more urgent priority as it will be needed by all projects
- The projects and groups working on them are informal – learning by doing
- Also, UK to chair a teleconference on communicating the work and vision of the Working Party to the public